



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

October 14, 2016

Governor's Talent Investment Board  
201 North Washington Square  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Dear Honored Board Members:

The Michigan Department of Education has a long-term strategy to become a *Top Ten Education State In Ten Years*. To realize this goal, the existing structure and system of education needs to be challenged and reshaped. A basic component of the new system is strong strategic partnerships. To that end, the Michigan Department of Education enthusiastically embraces the willingness of the Governor's Talent Investment Board membership to be collaborative partners. There is an important role for business and industry in the success of making Michigan a *Top Ten Education State In Ten Years*.

In addition to the *Top Ten Education State In Ten Years* initiative, the Michigan Department of Education is also developing a draft of a new state plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act. This is a comprehensive federal program that requires states to hold all students to high academic standards that prepare them for success in college and careers. The draft plan is being written so that it supports the strategies of the *Top Ten Education State In Ten Years'* goals.

These two major initiatives are still being formulated and the department staff reorganized to achieve these goals. It is our belief that these changes will reshape our education system in Michigan.

The Governor's Talent Investment Board role of enhancing career opportunities for our citizens supports the goals of the Michigan Department of Education. Our aspirations are that we become a state in which all our graduates are prepared and competent global citizens, successful in the workforce and society. Strong partnerships are needed and these collaborations happen when all partners are equally engaged and hold a shared commitment around identified needs. Clear intentions and defined outcomes ensure the greatest benefits from partnerships.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

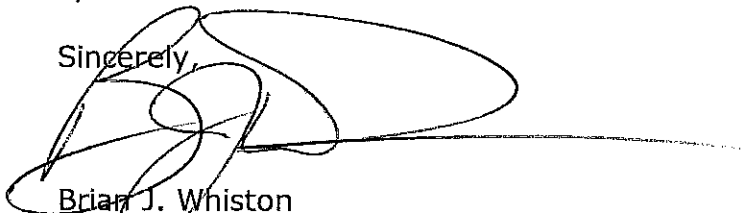
JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT  
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • PAMELA PUGH – TREASURER  
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY – NASBE DELEGATE • KATHLEEN N. STRAUS  
EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER • RICHARD ZEILE

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • 517-373-3324

October 14, 2016

The Resolution adopted by your Board membership on September 19, 2016, identified areas where the Michigan Department of Education can strengthen the connection to employer needs and identified skill gaps. We have also noted some of these very same areas of need. Many of them will be addressed within our future work. We appreciate the work of your subcommittees to provide opportunities to strengthen the career-based experiences and opportunities of students. As we develop our future goals and strategies, we will implement, where we can, your suggested improvements. More importantly, we will look to your membership, business organizations, and the entire business/industry community to stand with us as critical partners in full support of our shared goals for the Michigan education system.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Whiston  
State Superintendent